

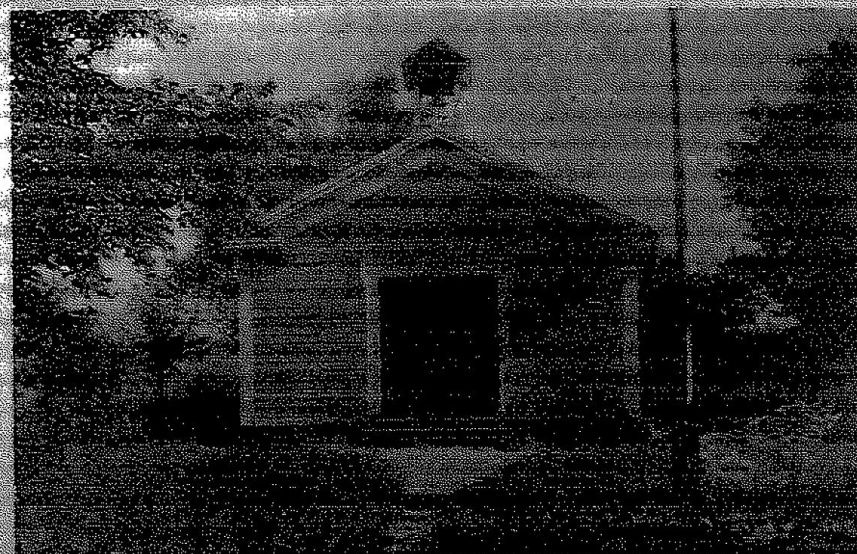


CLIFTON PARK SCHOOL # 1
REXFORD FLATS



CLIFTON PARK SCHOOL # 2
GROOMS CORNERS

CLIFTON PARK SCHOOL # 3
VISCHER FERRY



CLIFTON PARK SCHOOL # 4
CLUTES DRY DOCK



- Number 7 Waites' Corners (146/Waite Rds)
- " 8 Ashdown Rd. (Discontinued for Ballston Lake District)
- " 9 Jonesville (Next to the church then to the old Academy)
- " 10 Elnora
- " 11 Kinns Road (Skunk Hollow)
- " 12 Clifton Park Village
- " 13 Ushers' (Pig Street)
- " 14 Appleton Road (Goose Pasture Rd. near Grooms Rd.)
- " 15 Wilbur Corners (Moe/Crescent Rds)
- " 16 Vischer Ferry (South of village)

Skunk Hollow:

According to Mr. Rodney Winans, Skunk Hollow got its name from the odor picked up by trains running over skunks on the track in that area.

Pig Street:

Mr. Winans also tells a story on how Pig Street, in Ushers, received its nickname from doctors who were paid for their calls with pork.

found in Documents Relating to Colonial History Vol. I. In these documents is an edict issued from Holland in 1634: "The patroons shall also particularly exert themselves to find speedy means to maintain a clergyman and schoolmaster in order that Divine service and zeal in religion may be planted in that country and, send at first, a comforter (M.D.) for the sick thither. Each householder and inhabitant shall bear such tax and public charge".

No attempt was made to find any reference as to how this situation was handled up to 1795 when New York State started to pass laws governing school problems. Early folklore tales agree that there was some kind of teaching system whereby the children went to a common school financed by the local community. The families were very large in those days, often containing from six to ten children and only several families were needed to fill a small school house.

The early records show that children were eligible for school between the ages of 4 and 16; later this eligibility was raised to 5 to 21. The older children attended school mainly in the three winter months when there was no farm work requiring their help.

In outlying districts there were very few learning opportunities unless one walked long distances. Some children were fortunate enough to live with their relatives for the school term; others were taught reading, writing and arithmetic by their parents. Many of these children later went to the big cities and became successful

and at church.

Old documents show many of the original emigrants could not write and had to sign with an X witnessed by a well known neighbor or friend. This was especially true in the case of women - the ability to write being considered unnecessary for them.

We find in the Halfmoon school records of the early 1800's that the following school books were in use:

English Readers	geography
Rhetorical Readers	arithmetic
History of the U.S.A.	grammar
spelling books	primary readers
	philosophy

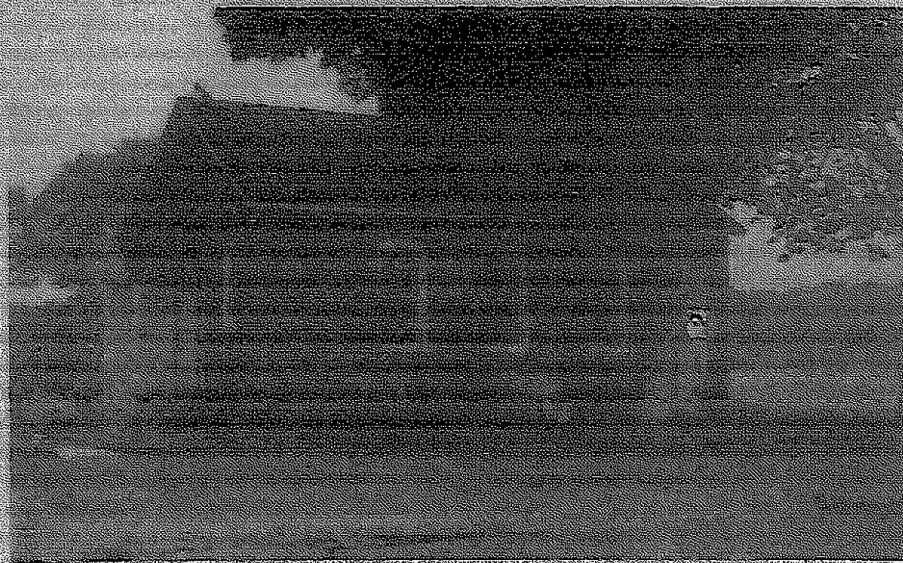
Reference books, Mitchell & Pelton's outline maps and small number of works upon chemistry, astronomy, algebra were available. No doubt one could locate history books in the public library which describe the school situation in our country up to the time when our government decided in 1795 to supply money to support a public school system. We find reference to private schools, charity schools, common schools, academies.

New York state on the 9th of April 1795, passed an act for the encouragement of schools which appropriated the sum of twenty thousand pounds (about \$100,000.00) annually for the next five years to be used for encouraging and maintaining schools in the

in the English language or be taught English grammar, arithmetic, mathematics and such other branches of knowledge as are most useful and necessary" From this sum, Saratoga County was allotted 1092 pounds or about \$5460.00.

"and be it further enacted that for the purpose of deriving a benefit from the monies hereby appropriated it shall be lawful for the inhabitants residing in the different parts of any town to associate together for the purpose of procuring good and sufficient schoolmasters, and for erecting or maintainings schools". (Laws of New York, page 626, chapter 75, 18th session) 1795,

On June 19, 1812 New York state passed a law which required an officer within the state known and distinguished as the superintendent of common schools. His duty was to "digest and prepare plans for the improvment and management of the common schools" and be it further enacted "that the commissioners be authorized and empowered to divide their respective towns into suitable and convenient number of districts, for keeping their schools, and to alter and regulate the same". The law continues to include a local district superintendent and commissioners with strict order on how to handles and report monies spent each year etc., and empowered them to set up their school district for the convenience of the families even though it might require a school in one district to accommodate children from another district if such



CLIFTON PARK SCHOOL # 5
MOE/GROOMS ROADS

CLIFTON PARK SCHOOL # 7
WAITE / RT. 146 RDS.



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years formulating laws to create a smooth working district school organization.

It will be noted that the state in 1812, enacted a law which authorized and empowered the school commissioners to divide their respective towns into a suitable number of districts. Thus we find records of the various town school authorities getting together and laying out districts in their own areas at that time. Halfmoon included the present Clifton Park area.

In 1828 the town of Clifton Park was formed from a portion of Halfmoon and consequently some of the districts had to be changed and renumbered. It seems that all the town in New York state were busy in 1812-1813 laying out school districts. As an example the following is a section of Watervliet, now the town of Colonie: "at a meeting of the commissioners of schools of the town of Watervliet held at the house of John Schuyler Jr. on the 17th September 1813. Present John Schuyler Jr., John G. VanZandt, (Dr.) Michael Frelegh. The said town was divided into school districts in manner following - to-wit District No. 1, beginning at the bank of Hudson's River, etc."

In the town of Clifton Park, formed in 1828, some of the old Halfmoon districts were not changed and one can get a fairly good idea of the various place names at that time. This is a very good source of local history. Note in the 1st district the arrangements